

# Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 5, Issue 6

August 2005

## Presidential Perch

I would like to welcome you to our annual fair. If you have never been to our event, you are in for a treat. For those that have been to our fairs, welcome back...

You will see lots of new faces from vendors and newcomers. Our vendors come from all over the United State to display their birds and wares. There are so many nice things to choose from. They carry food items, snacks, toys and toy pars, cages, swings, play stands and play trees. You can buy ready-made toys or parts to make your own. If you don't see it here you may not find it anywhere.

If you would like to join our Club, there is an application in this program, on our website, or while at the Fair, contact any of our members at our booth or throughout the hall. We meet the third Sunday of each month, at 2:00 PM, at the Humane Society of Missouri, on Macklind Avenue, near Forest Park Community College. Please join and make new friends and learn more about your birds and what others do with theirs. We exchange bird stories and have interesting speakers on educational topics each month. We hold a monthly raffle and always have lots of goodies on our hospitality table. So don't miss out, join today.

I hope you have a great day and find everything you need for your feathered friends.

*Phyllis Cotton*



## The Gateway Parrot Club Membership Application

Please complete this form and forward it to our Membership Secretary. You may do this by mail, to the address below, or bring it to a meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

We normally share contact information, phone and address, with our members. Place an X in the **Private?** column for any information you do not want published in our Membership Directory.

Date	_____	Private?	_____
Name (First Last)	_____		
Mailing Address Street	_____		
City	_____		
State	_____		
ZIP	_____		
Email address	_____		
Primary phone	_____		
Secondary phone	_____		
Other family members	_____		
	_____		
How did you hear about us?	_____		
Do you currently care for birds?	_____		
If so what kind(s)	_____		
Are you a breeder?	_____		

Annual dues are \$20 per household. Your first payment covers the balance of the current year and the following calendar year. Renewal is due by December 31 for each subsequent year.

Make checks payable to **Gateway Parrot Club**  
Mail this form with payment to: Gateway Parrot Club  
317 Avalon Chase Drive  
Fenton, MO 63026

## Info

Trey Shaffer

### Newsletter

We have combined the August newsletter with the All American Hookbill Fair program. For members, familiar with the newsletter, you will notice the Fair-specific content, like the vendor floor layout, list of donors and Seminar Schedule. For non-members, this is a sample of our almost-monthly newsletter, which is mailed to all members.

We hope you are, or become a member. You will help the Club support its mission and become a better bird caretaker in the process.

### Website

You can also find a variety of information on our website:

[www.GatewayParrotClub.org](http://www.GatewayParrotClub.org)

or just Google "Parrot Club." There you will find archive copies of our newsletter, information on past events and presentations, links to other parrot-related resources, and news of upcoming Club activities.

### Thank You

Thanks to everyone who made The All American Hookbill Fair possible. First, thank you to everyone who attended the Fair. We hope you learned something and found supplies for your feathered friends, or even a new family member.

Thanks to the vendors who presented their products. We hope you have a successful weekend and return in the future.

Finally, thanks to the members of the GPC who have worked for months on this Fair, and years building the event to what it is today. And thanks to Boy Scout Troop 572 for their support.

### Talk To Us

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter, on the web site, at our meetings, or at the Fair next year.

degrees Fahrenheit in three minutes and 20 seconds - a Teflon pan reached 721 degrees Fahrenheit in five minutes under the same conditions.

EWG's study determined that at 680 degrees Fahrenheit, Teflon pans release at least six toxic gases, including two carcinogens, two global pollutants, and MFA, a chemical lethal to humans at low doses.

The long term human health effects from these toxins have not been studied, but there is increasing concern about chemical ingredients in Teflon, in particular ammonium perfluorooctane (PFOA), a chemical currently being reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[In one year, a Chicago veterinarian documented 296 bird deaths in 105 cases involving non stick cookware. (Photo courtesy Stanford University)] A draft risk assessment on PFOA found evidence of high developmental and reproductive health risks to humans, in particular to children and women of childbearing age.

DuPont's public statements about the possible health risks from PFOA - referred to by the company as "C8" - have been questioned. The company is under federal investigation for the possibly illegal withholding of key health studies regarding C8 and was sanctioned by a West Virginia court three weeks ago because a company scientist destroyed evidence from health research on the chemical. The government has not assessed the safety of non-stick cookware, most of which does not carry a warning label.

EWG recommends that bird owners completely avoid cookware and heated appliances with nonstick coatings, opting instead to use stainless steel or cast iron. The organization says neither of these materials offgas persistent pollutants that kill birds.

The EWG report on the health risks to birds and humans from nonstick pans can be found here.

<http://www.ewg.org/reports/toxicteflon/>

pet birds each year and cause the flu like “polymer fever” in humans.

“Our simple test showed DuPont is wrong when they tell customers the pans won’t degrade except under extreme misuse,” said Dr. Jennifer Klein, a chemist with EWG. “Actually, the pans started emitting toxic particles and chemicals quite quickly at temperatures within normal use on a typical stovetop.” The study’s findings prompted EWG to send a petition Thursday to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) asking the federal safety board to label the coated cookware with a warning about dangers to pet birds and possible human health effects.

The petition calls on CPSC to “require that all cookware and heated appliances bearing polytetrafluoroethylene nonstick coatings, including Teflon coatings, carry a label warning of the acute hazard the coating poses to pet birds and the potential health risks to humans.”

[The study by Environmental Working Group warns of health risks from common use of nonstick pans. (Photo by Ian Britton courtesy FreeFoto.com)] There have been no studies on the long term effects of Teflon and similar coatings to humans, but DuPont has acknowledged that pans heated to some 460 degrees Fahrenheit release toxic particles that can kill birds. There is ample evidence that this is the case in EWG’s report “Canaries in the Kitchen,” which details how birds can die from inhaling fumes and particles emitted from Teflon coated products.

Studies by DuPont show that humans may experience “polymer fume fever” when Teflon is heated to 662 degrees Fahrenheit.

The company contends that pans heated under 500 degrees have no risks to humans because the coating stays intact at this temperature and company officials say they do not believe consumers often heat pans above this temperature. EWG’s findings strongly dispute this as its tests show that cookware exceeds these temperatures and turns toxic through the common act of preheating a pan, on a burner set on high.

“Not only did we reach normal cooking temperatures in very short times, but what American adult with a kitchen has not left a pan on once or twice and forgotten about it?,” asked Jane Houlihan, EWG’s vice president for research. “It is hard to follow what DuPont is thinking when they say the pans don’t off-gas toxic chemicals under ‘normal’ use.”

In its tests, EWG found that a generic nonstick frying pan preheated on a conventional, electric stovetop burner reached 736

## Gateway Parrot Club

And

# Unweaned Birds

This is our seventh annual Fair since adopting a policy prohibiting sale of unweaned birds. This is a firm commitment to the welfare of our avian friends.

***We do not allow display or sale of unweaned birds at the Fair.***

All vendors have accepted this policy and we are proud of their commitment to the health and welfare of their young fledglings. They have taken an extra step to provide a higher level of care than breeders who sell unweaned birds to inexperienced but well meaning people.

This is not an easy choice for these breeders. Many have birds they are unable to present today because they are too young to go home with you. We ask you to applaud these breeders. Talk to them. Get to know them, and arrange for them to introduce you to their young charges when they are truly ready to move on to a new and wonderful experience in a new home. Let them guide you, teach you, and help you make the right decision about the best bird to be your lifelong companion.

***Why?*** You might ask. Without going into the unpleasant details, there is a body of unfortunate incidents associated with well intentioned, but inexperienced, owners taking responsibility for the care of unweaned birds and not fulfilling that responsibility. Seven years ago we were on the leading edge of the effort to eliminate the practice of premature transfer of baby birds. Today, major avian and veterinary organizations are united in this recommendation and States are passing legislation to make the recommendation law. If you would like more information on these organizations their policies, simply do a web search on the words “unweaned birds,” or talk with Gateway Parrot Club members at the Fair.

# Schedule of Events

*Saturday, August 27, 2005*

- 9:30 AM** Doors Open To The Public
- 10:30 AM** Michelle Karras, Behavior Consultant
- 1:00 PM** Rich Weiner, Rescue Director
- 2:00 PM** Mark Bittner, Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill
- 3:30 PM** Dr. Kersting, Bird Medicine & Surgery
- 4:30 PM** Cliff Patterson, Baby Bird Farm
- 6:00 PM** Doors Close To The Public.  
Dinner for vendors, speakers, and volunteers hosted by the Gateway Parrot Club.

*Sunday, August 28, 2005*

- 9:30 AM** Doors Open To The Public
- 10:30 AM** Mark Bittner, Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill
- 1:00 PM** Michelle Karras, Behavior Consultant
- 2:00 PM** Rich Weiner, Rescue Director
- 3:15 PM** Silent Auction Closes
- 3:45 PM** Big Cage Raffle
- 4:00 PM** Raffle Table
- 5:00 PM** Doors Close To The Public

## Money, Money, Money

It is no secret; the All American Hookbill Fair is a fundraising event. With the exception of membership fees and our monthly internal raffle, the Fair supports the Club's activities for the entire year.

We hope you enjoy the Fair, find supplies for your feathered friends, enjoy our speakers and pick up valuable information. We also hope you will consider supporting the Club with a donation.

Our expenses for the Fair are significantly higher than in years past. Several months ago we decided to offset some of these costs by charging fees for our seminars. We got negative feedback on that, and reduced or eliminated all seminar fees. We did not want to take away from our primary mission of education. So please attend all our seminars and enjoy the weekend.

Outside the Club's modest operating budget, all proceeds are channeled to avian-related causes. Recent beneficiaries include organizations such as Wild Bird Rehabilitation, The Alex Foundation, World Bird Sanctuary and the Feather Distribution Project.

## Health Risk Nonstick Cookware

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By J.R. Pegg

**Editor's Note:** This older article is included as reminder and especially for those that may bring home their first bird from the Fair.

WASHINGTON, DC, May 16, 2003 (ENS) - An environmental research organization is urging the federal government to put warning labels on cookware coated with Teflon and similar nonstick coatings.

A new study released Thursday by the Environmental Working Group (EWG) finds that this cookware more quickly reaches temperatures that produce toxic particles and fumes than chemical giant and Teflon manufacturer DuPont has previously admitted.

EWG tested coated pans and determined that in two to five minutes on a typical household stove, the pans reach temperatures that produce toxins that Dupont has acknowledged kill hundreds of

## Contact Information

We welcome your questions and suggestions...

### Officers

President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 427-3679
Vice President	Janet Draper	(314) 432-3019
Secretary	Dorene Olson	(314) 956-1310
Treasurer	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Membership	Carole Grommet	(636) 529-0026

### Board Members

Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Debby Martin	(314) 968-0949
Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949

### Committees

Education/Outreach	Dorene Olson	(314) 569-1310
Hospitality	Pat Seiler	(314) 462-4732
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Larry Martin	(314) 968-0949
Website /Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

## New Bird ???

There are many reasons to visit our Fair. One is to find a new family member. We hope you support the vendors at our Fair, but regardless where your new bird comes from, please follow these simple recommendations.

**If you have other birds, isolate your new bird** from them for at least thirty, preferably sixty days. Make this isolation as complete as possible and practical. Don't allow contamination of food, water or cages through common cleaning materials and, if possible, air flow. This may be inconvenient, but keep them as far apart as possible within your home.

**Have your new bird examined by an avian veterinarian.** If you do not currently have an avian vet, please choose carefully. Perhaps the most important qualification for your vet is that birds are a significant part of their practice. While the Gateway Parrot Club does not officially recommend avian veterinarians, our website lists area veterinarians. You will find avian veterinarians making presentations at our Fair. Ask them about their practice and recommendations. Feel free to talk to our members and ask about their *personal* preferences for veterinarians.

Details of the initial exam will vary depending on veterinarian, bird and the environment the bird will live in. Talk directly with the vet before making your appointment and find out what the exam for your bird will involve. A complete exam involves a careful physical observation, fecal exam and blood test. The actual tests performed may vary based on the general vitality of the bird, and whether it will be in a community with other birds.

Some optional services during the initial exam might include sex determination, in breeds where it is not obvious, and microchip identification.

## Thanks To Our Supporters

The Gateway Parrot Club wants to thank the individuals and organizations that have contributed to the success of the All American Hookbill Fair.

Anheuser-Busch, Inc.  
Baby Bird Farm  
Bird Medicine and Surgery  
Build-A-Bear Workshop  
COCA  
Farotto's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria  
Fortel's Pizza Den, Inc.  
Missouri Botanical Gardens  
Missouri River Otters  
Panera Bread  
The Pasta House  
REI  
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis  
Romano's Macaroni Grill  
Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra  
Saint Louis Zoo  
Schnuck's  
Six Flags, St. Louis  
Tri-City Animal & Bird Clinic, Inc.  
Wild Bird Center, Olive Blvd.  
The Wine & Cheese Place  
Whole Foods Markets  
Wild Birds Unlimited, Warson Woods  
Debby & Larry Martin  
Nancy Marron  
Mary Fitzenreider  
Phyllis Cotton  
Janet Draper  
Christine Kinkade  
Trey Shaffer  
The Very Best Cookies, Webster Groves  
Krispy Kreme Donuts  
Bird Cage Warehouse & Supply Co.  
Pretty Bird Foods

This list is complete as of 8/14/05. It is likely there have been additions since then. Please check at our booth for updates.

that won't be offensive – we use “Hello” with Mozart – always answering that call with a verbal response and sometimes going to his cage – and ignoring other screeches. It has helped – but not stopped the noise completely. Birds will be noisy – that's just birds. Some species are noisier than others. The article mentioned some quieter species such as Pionus and Senegals.

**Independent Play:** Your new little guy or gal is going to be SO cute it's going to be hard not to hold and give neck scratches all the time. The article pointed out it's really important to help your bird learn how to amuse itself. We found with Mozart he didn't really know how to play without us playing with the toy with him first. If he doesn't learn that he can't be out all the time, it will be difficult later.

## Trails for Tails

The St. Charles Humane Society's Trails for Tails is a pledge based dog walk and fun pet show held at Frontier Park in St Charles, MO on Sunday, Sept 18, 2005 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Setup begins at 8 AM. For more information about the event, contact the Humane Society at (636) 949-9918, or visit their website at:

[www.StCharlesHumaneSociety.org](http://www.StCharlesHumaneSociety.org)

Pat Seiler will be there at the GPC booth and is looking for other volunteers to help out. We will need to provide our own table & chairs as well as tent, if desired. Contact Pat, or Dorene Olson, our Event Chairperson, if you can help. Contact info is at the end of the newsletter or on the website. Or, just talk to them at the Fair.

strates how to use a clicker as a bridge and the incremental steps of positive reinforcement.

## New Bird Notes

### ***My Baby was SOOOO Cute & Sweet – What Happened?***

Debby Martin

The All American Hookbill Fair is coming up and that means some baby parrots are going to find a new home soon. New “parronts” should begin teaching some birdy basic skills so that those behaviors are second nature. They will help the relationship when the bird is older and hits “hormonal” teenager times. The article “Bringing up Baby” in *Bird Talk*, April 2005 issue, had some very good suggestions (beside some absolutely heart thumping cute pictures of little ones). Here are several skills the article emphasized.

**Step Up:** Teach your baby to Step Up on command to your finger, wrist or hand held perch. Put your finger, wrist or perch at his feet and if necessary push gently on his belly. When he steps up lavishly praise him over and over. All family members should do this several times a day. When he’s secure steady have him step up three or four times in succession – laddering.

**Being Sociable:** Let your baby see you interacting with lots of different people. His cage should be in a place where he can feel part of the flock and interact. You can take him away from his cage to a different room and all family members hold and pet him. I walk with Mozart in a carrier where he can see out and greet people and I’ve done that since he was very small.

**Contact Call:** You are his flock and he’s going to call if you are out of sight. Try and teach him a phrase or whistle

## Meet Our Speakers

Here are brief descriptions of the speakers you will find at our Fair. We hope you will attend the various seminars, ranging from medical information to behavior and wild life.

### **Michelle Karras**

#### **The Polite Parrot**

#### **Avian Behavior Consultant**

Michelle worked as a veterinary assistant and practice manager for an exotic vet clinic in Lisle IL. for eight years. Michelle also worked for 15 years in affiliation with *Narnia Pet Behavior* in Naperville IL. Michelle is also a licensed foster home for *A Refuge For Saving The Wildlife* a non-for-profit parrot rescue. After working with *Narnia* doing dog, cat, and bird behavior she realized the extensive need for someone to concentrate solely on parrot behavior in the Midwest. After working with over one hundred rescued birds and rehabilitating them to be able to be placed into loving homes *The Polite Parrot* was established in 1996. Michelle’s techniques are based on positive reinforcement and redirection of undesirable behavior, yet still allowing a parrot to be a parrot.

### **Mark Bittner**

We are pleased to have Mark Bittner at the Fair. A national celebrity in the “bird world,” Mark is the author of *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, and is featured in the film of the same name.

You will have the opportunity to purchase one of Mark’s books, and ask him to sign it for you.

## Cliff Patterson

Cliff is the proprietor of the *Baby Bird Farm*. Cliff raises Quaker Parrots and sells a variety of bird accessories. Cliff will be talking about raising and training Quakers, and will feature a clutch of four week old blue Quakers.

Those familiar with our mailing list have heard from Cliff and can stop by to put a face to his messages. Cliff will also have a booth at the Fair, for the Baby Bird Farm, so come to his seminar and stop by his booth.

## Rich Weiner

Rich is the director of *A Refuge For Saving The Wildlife*, a rescue organization in the Chicago area. Rich started his love for birds when he purchased "Prince", his male CAG. Soon after that came "Ninja" his female U2. That was over 18 years ago. He soon became known as the man who will take in your unwanted bird. After realizing the need for companion bird rescue, he started a Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc. In addition to running the Refuge, Rich is a police/fire lieutenant. Rich is certified as an Avian Specialist by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and a certified wildlife rehabilitator/educator for raptors (hawks, eagles, owls, & falcons).

## David Kersting

Dr. Kersting is the principal of Bird Medicine and Surgery, a two doctor practice that averages an 80% caseload of birds. Dr. Kersting was a founding member of the GPC and has supported Club activities through the years.

Dr. Kersting is a member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) and the American Federation of Aviculture (AFA). He is veterinarian on staff at the Butterfly House, Grant's Farm, Wild Bird Rehabilitation and Pekin Duck Fund. He is veterinary Advisor for the American Cockatiel Society and show veterinarian for the Gateway Parrot Club and Missouri Cage Bird Club and first to provide behavior counseling in the Metro area for pet birds and their owners.

member meeting, as my mom gets me early Christmas presents! And we had a vendor who will be returning to our August fair this year named Melynda, of Wood Chuck Bird Toys, who specially researched Parrotlets and little birds and made me some wonderful teeny toys.

Small toys can easily be made by your human. These include enhanced whisk brooms, with raffia and beads tied to the broom itself; paper, shredders, tortilla shells or lettuce threaded thru your cage bars; walnut shells with treats hidden in them; basket toys with used toy parts to disengage, and toy boxes. My mom makes us all toy boxes that we keep on the bottom of our cage, well away from under any perches! In our baskets she puts such things as avi-cakes, broken up toy parts that still have chewing mileage on them, straws in paper wrappers bound into balls for us to chew up, and little phone books to chew up. We make such messes with our toy boxes, and are often to be found with just the tips of our tails emerging from over the top of the box.

Do make sure that there are no loose strings or bits of fabric that you can get a leg or wing caught up in.

Best of luck in the toy department,

Pauline

CLICK YOUR WAY TO BIRDY FUN  
NEW DVD AVAILABLE

Debby Martin

Ever wondered how people used "clicker training" to work with animals? Ever wondered what in the world "clicker training" is in the first place. We now have a DVD in the library that contains two very interesting real life training stories. "Patient Like the Chipmunks" is the story of Keller and Marian Breland and Bob Bailey who created Animal Behavior Enterprises and developed a training method that focuses on positive reinforcement. A second selection the DVD is "Clicker Magic, the Art of Shaping" which demon-

## *On the Perch with Pauline*

**Editor's Note** – Be sure to stop by Pauline's booth at the Fair.

Pauline the Parrotlet is well known to regular Gateway Parrot Club meeting members as the tiny blue ricochet that lands in your hair. Pauline is a four year old, parent raised ex-breeder bird who was retired after she chewed off all her own toes. She is adored by the Olson Frei household, where she rules the roost. Very opinionated by nature, Pauline has volunteered her services to offer birdy advice. Questions to Pauline from your parrots can be sent to the Gateway Parrot club yahoo group, or to Pauline's Personal Assistant at [taradorene@charter.net](mailto:taradorene@charter.net). Pauline regularly consults with professionals other than herself and includes their recommendations in her column. And now, over to Pauline...

Dear Pauline, I'm a young active cockatiel and I have noticed a surprising lack of foraging toys on the market for birds of my petite stature. The inflated big birds seem to have the corner on the market for environmental enrichment. I was wondering if you have any suggestions that I can pass along to my human. She has already made me one toy with a forging option and I love it. It is just a small wooden flower pot from the craft store that she strung on bird safe leather along with some beads. She hides little treats in there for me to find and I really like the surprises.

Thank you for your thoughts,

Whisper

Dear Whisper:

I heard that you recently got adopted into your new home and have joined the Gateway Parrot Club, congratulations and welcome!

There are a number of sources where you can find small bird toys. The Bird Cage Warehouse in St. Charles (636-939-9888) carries a nice supply of small toys for us little folk, as well as some toy making parts. Our club's own Dawn Breer or Sweet Peas toys could also probably specially make some smaller toys, and my mom has brought home some wonderful toys from her for me before. Dawn's number is 636-464-8085, and she comes to our meetings a few times each year to sell her wares. I especially like our No-

## Mark Bittner Update

**Editor's Note** - Following is an email from Mark that came in recently. For those of you following the Telegraph Hill birds, this will be interesting. Don't forget to visit Mark's presentations at the Fair and get the latest...

Hello. This is Mark Bittner again. Last weekend, Judy Irving and I made a trip down to Cascabel, Arizona. to visit Mingus, and many of you have asked me to write about how that went.

Mingus is doing fine. His home, the Oasis Sanctuary, is in a lovely, secluded area in the high desert. Mingus and the others from the flock, Anditson (Mingus's mate) and Yosemite, are quite healthy and content. They live outdoors year-round and eat much better food than I ever gave them. Fresh vegetables! Judy and I had a wonderful stay, and we want to thank Sybil Erden, TJ, and the others caring for the hundreds of birds living at the Oasis for their hospitality. People want to know: Did Mingus remember me? Did Mingus dance? I can't be absolutely certain that he recognized me, although I'm much inclined to think he did. It's a realistic conclusion. Did he dance...? Judy and I made the decision in advance that the DVD should show what really happened, and it will, and...you'll all just have to wait.

Both Judy and I are working on the DVD extras now. Besides the trip to Arizona, the disk (remember, it's just a single disk now, not the double disk, as we previously reported) will have an interview with a woman who knows more about the fate of Connor. I'm presently editing a video to accompany the recording by Roberta Fabiano of her song "Dogen, Connor, and Tupelo." (I'm VERY happy with this, by the way.) There will be about a half hour of my home movies, shot years before Judy came along, as well as some outtakes from her movie. Everything is coming together nicely, everything is subject to change, and it will all be out in January.

The eggs have hatched, and the babies are growing inside nest holes throughout the city, getting ready to take their first flights—early September.

To those of you who have written and to whom I haven't responded: I have a huge backlog of email that I fully intend to get to eventually. (I do read it all personally.) So patience, please, and thank you for all the insights, compliments, and challenges.

